Elizabeth Higginbotham grew up in New York City and graduated from City College of New York before getting her doctorate in Sociology at Brandeis University. She has taught at several institutions, including the University of Memphis where she was one of the founding members of the Center for Research on Women. The Center did pioneering research and faculty development in the intersection of race, class and gender in the social sciences. She along with Lynn Weber conducted NIMH funded research on professional managerial women exploring issues of work and mental health.

Professor Higginbotham is currently a professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice at the University of Delaware with joint appointments in Black American Studies and Women's Studies. Her scholarship has explored work and education issues for women, especially Black women. In addition to articles in journals and collected volumes, her publications include *Too Much to Ask: Black Women in the Era of Integration* (University of North Carolina Press, 2001), *Women and Work: Exploring Race, Ethnicity, and Class*, co-edited with Mary Romero (Sage Publications 1997) and with Margaret Andersen, *Race in Society: The Changing Landscape*, 3rd *edition* (Wadsworth-Cengage, 2012). She is currently researching Black professionals who desegregate workplaces.